

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS AMENDMENTS**

2017 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Howard A. Stephenson**

House Sponsor: Carol Spackman Moss

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill provides for supplemental English language arts instruction in public schools.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- ▶ defines terms;
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to select one or more technology providers, through a request for proposals process, to provide software licenses for an English language arts instructional tool that meets certain criteria;
- ▶ provides for the distribution of the English language arts instructional tool licenses to school districts and charter schools; and
- ▶ requires the State Board of Education to annually report testing data regarding the English language arts instructional tool to the Education Interim Committee.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

This bill appropriates:

- ▶ to the State Board of Education - Utah State Office of Education - Initiative Programs, as an ongoing appropriation:
  - from the Education Fund, \$1,000,000.

**Other Special Clauses:**

This bill provides a special effective date.

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**



28 ENACTS:

29 **53A-1-712**, Utah Code Annotated 1953



31 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

32 Section 1. Section **53A-1-712** is enacted to read:

33 **53A-1-712. English language arts instructional tool.**

34 (1) As used in this section:

35 (a) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

36 (b) "Lexile measure" means a unit of measurement that indicates the reading level of  
37 readers and the difficulty of a text that can be used to appropriately align reading materials to  
38 the level and comprehension rate of readers.

39 (c) "Licenses" means software licenses for a tool described in Subsection (2).

40 (2) On or before July 1, 2017, the board shall select one or more technology providers,  
41 through a request for proposals process, to provide licenses for a supplemental tool for students  
42 in grades Kindergarten through 12 that:

43 (a) enables student reading ability to be reported as a Lexile measure;

44 (b) uses Lexile measures to appropriately align reading materials and exercises to the  
45 comprehension level of readers;

46 (c) includes activities designed to assess and improve:

47 (i) reading skills;

48 (ii) writing skills; and

49 (iii) vocabulary;

50 (d) is self-adapting to respond to the needs and progress of the learner, including  
51 allowing for increasingly intense instruction and additional practice opportunities based on  
52 individual student needs;

53 (e) provides opportunities for frequent and informal assessments and includes an  
54 embedded progress monitoring tool and mechanisms for regular feedback to students and  
55 teachers; and

56 (f) supplements and is aligned with state core curriculum standards related to English  
57 language arts.

58 (3) The board may select one or more providers that provide a supplemental tool that

59 does not meet all the criteria described in Subsections (2)(a) through (f) if the board ensures  
60 that the selected providers' supplemental tools collectively meet all the criteria described in  
61 Subsections (2)(a) through (f).

62 (4) The board shall:

63 (a) solicit proposals from school districts and charter schools for the use of the  
64 licenses; and

65 (b) make the licenses available to school districts and charter schools on a competitive  
66 basis.

67 (5) (a) On or before November 1, 2018, and on or before November 1 each year  
68 thereafter, the board shall report to the Education Interim Committee on the use of the tool  
69 described in Subsection (2) to supplement and enhance English language arts instruction in  
70 public schools.

71 (b) The board shall ensure that the report under Subsection (5)(a) includes student  
72 learning gains on statewide achievement tests as a result of using the tool described in  
73 Subsection (2).

74 **Section 2. Appropriation.**

75 The following sums of money are appropriated for the fiscal year beginning July 1,  
76 2017, and ending June 30, 2018. These are additions to amounts previously appropriated for  
77 fiscal year 2018. Under the terms and conditions of Utah Code Title 63J, Chapter 1, Budgetary  
78 Procedures Act, the Legislature appropriates the following sums of money from the funds or  
79 accounts indicated for the use and support of the government of the State of Utah.

80 To State Board of Education - Utah State Office of Education - Initiative Programs

81 From Education Fund

\$1,000,000

82 Schedule of Programs:

83 English Language Arts Instructional Tool

\$1,000,000

84 The Legislature intends that appropriations provided in this section are to be used as  
85 provided in Section [53A-1-712](#).

86 **Section 3. Effective date.**

87 If approved by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, this bill takes effect  
88 upon approval by the governor, or the day following the constitutional time limit of Utah  
89 Constitution, Article VII, Section 8, without the governor's signature, or in the case of a veto,

90 the date of veto override.

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**Legislative Review Note**  
**Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel**